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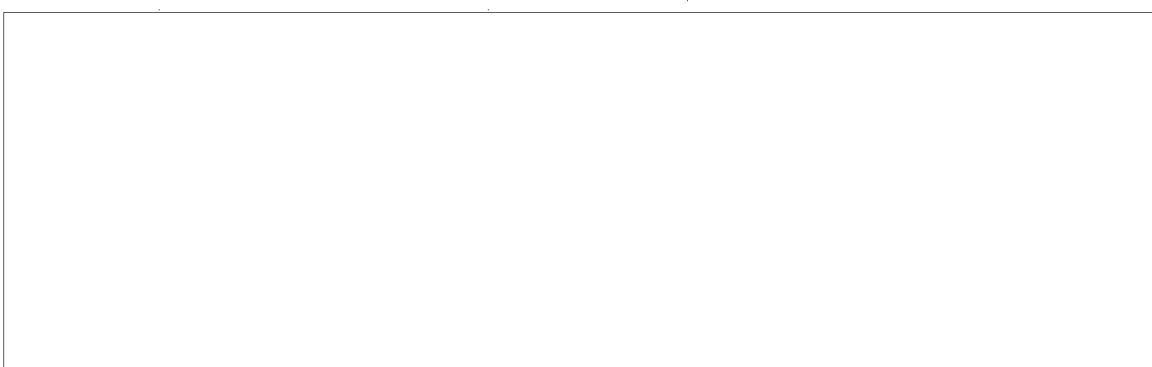
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1. COMMENT ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI SITUATION

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Fighting in the Gaza area between Egypt and Israel continued unabated on 30 August despite diplomatic representations from Western countries. UN truce supervisor Burns stated that the situation was out of control; attempted meetings of the mixed armistice commission were repeatedly interrupted by reports of new outbreaks.

An Egyptian offer for a cease-fire, transmitted on 29 August to Ambassador Byroade, has not been taken up by Israel. As of 2400 hours 30 August Israel also had not replied to Burns' own proposal, which originally called for a simple cease-fire by 1200 EDT on 30 August. A UN announcement from Jerusalem stated, however, that Israel's agreement was expected, with a truce effective at 1300 EDT 31 August. The original proposal was accepted by Egypt.

The American embassy in Tel Aviv feels that Israel is probably not eager for a cease-fire. The Israelis are likely to consider Cairo's offer and its acceptance of Burns' proposal merely an attempt to protect Egypt from Israeli retaliation. The embassy stated on 30 August that the only discernible factor working to restrain Israel at this time was Secretary Dulles' 26 August address.

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